

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 27090 291147Z

14
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 OMB-01

SIL-01 LAB-04 MCT-01 /065 W
----- 047004

R 291040Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4000
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 27090

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH
SUBJECT: THE PHIKKU THANON AFFAIR

REF: BANGKOK 26822

SUMMARY. NSCT ORGANIZING DEMONSTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 29 AT
SANAM LUANG TO DEMAND OUSTER OF THANOM AND IMMEDIATE ARREST
OF MURDERERS OF TWO ACTIVISTS. COMMERCE MINISTER DAMRONG
SAYS THANOM REFUSED INITIAL GOVERNMENT REQUEST THAT HE
LEAVE TEMPORARILY FOR BODGAYA, INDIA. PRIME MINISTER SEES
SUPREME PATRIARCH. NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVIST ACTIVITY
OUTSIDE OF BANGKOK. BANGKOK QUIET, ALTHOUGH POLICE GEARED
FOR POSSIBLE TROUBLE. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 27090 291147Z

1. THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT)
AND THE LABOR COUNCIL OF THAILAND (LCT), ANNOUNCED

ON SEPTEMBER 28 THAT THEY AND OTHER ACTIVIST GROUPS WOULD HOLD A DEMONSTRATION AT SANAM LUANG (PHRAMAINE GROUNDS) AT 3 PM ON SEPTEMBER 29 TO DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE OUSTER OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKHACHON AND THE IMMEDIATE ARREST OF THE MURDERERS OF TWO ANTI-THANOM ACTIVISTS WHO WERE MURDERED IN NAKHON PATHOM ON SEPTEMBER 24 (REFTEL). THE ACTIVIST LEADERS, LED BY SUTHAM SAENGPRATHUM, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NSCT, HAD EARLIER HANDED THEIR DEMANDS TO PRIME MINISTER M.R. SENI PRAMOT, AND TOLD THE PRESS THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT TOUGH ENOUGH IN ITS HANDLING OF THE THANOM AFFAIR.

2. THE NSCT STILL LINKS THE DEATH OF THE TWO ACTIVISTS TO THEIR ANTI-THANOM ACTIVITIES IN SPITE OF STATEMENT BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE, LTG NARONG

MANHANON ON SEPTEMBER 27 THAT THE POLICE NOW BELIEVE THAT THE MOTIVE OF THE MURDERS WAS PERSONAL REVENGE AND NOT POLITICAL.

3. DAMRONG LATTHAPHIPHAT, ACTING COMMERCE MINISTER AND HEAD OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH NEGOTIATING WITH THANOM FOR HIS RETURN TO EXILE, SAID ON SEPTEMBER 28 THAT THANOM, THROUGH HIS RELATIVES, HAD REFUSED A REQUEST BY THE COMMITTEE THAT HE LEAVE THE COUNTRY TEMPORARILY FOR BODGAYA IN INDIA. THANOM WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETURN IF HIS FATHER'S CONDITION WORSENEDED OR WHENEVER HE FELT IT NECESSARY TO RETURN. DAMRONG ADMITTED THAT EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THANOM TO LEAVE MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME AND ASKED THE ACTIVISTS TO ACT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONSTITUTION.

4. PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOT PAID A BRIEF CALL ON THE SUPREME BUDDHIST PATRIARCH OF THAILAND ON SEPTEMBER 29. HE REFUSED TO DIVULGE THE REASON OF HIS VISIT, ALTHOUGH CONSIDERED OPINION IS THAT HE DISCUSSED THE THANOM AFFAIR AND MAY HAVE ASKED THE PATRIARCH'S ASSISTANCE IN PERSUADING OR REQUESTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 27090 291147Z

THANOM TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR THE SAKE OF TRANQUILITY IN THAILAND.

5. COMMENT: EXTENT OF ATTENDANCE AT THE SEPTEMBER 29 NSCT RALLY WILL GIVE FURTHER INDICATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS EFFORTS TO BUILD UP PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE OUSTER OF THANOM. TO DATE PUBLIC CONCERN, AS MEASURED BY ATTENDANCE AT RALLIES, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LOW. PREVIOUS PUBLIC RALLY SEPTEMBER 25 ATTRACTED NO MORE THAN 3,000 PERSONS,

AND EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO INFORMATION OF ANY SIGNIFICANT ANTI-THANOM ACTIVITY OUTSIDE OF BANGKOK. AMCONSUL UDRON REPORTS THAT HE HAS OBSERVED NO ANTI-THANOM POSTERS IN UDRON OR NEARBY CITY OF KHON KAEN. THE CONSULATE RECEIVED A REPORT THAT STUDENT ACTIVISTS AT UDORN TEACHERS' COLLEGE ATTEMPTED TO ORGANIZE A DEMONSTRATION SEPTEMBER 24 PROTESTING THANOM'S RETURN BUT FAILED IN THEIR EFFORTS BECAUSE OF LACK OF STUDENT SUPPORT. THE CONSULATE'S LOCAL ASSISTANT REPORTS HE OBSERVED NO INDICATION OF STUDENT ACTIVITY IN KHON KAEN OVER THE THANOM ISSUE.

6. AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI REPORTS THAT, DESPITE REPORTS THAT THERE WOULD BE STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN CHIANG MAI CIT 27 SEPTEMBER TO PROTEST THE MURDER OF TWO LEFTIST ACTIVISTS IN NKHON PATHON, THE CITY WAS QUIET, POSSIBLY DUE TO A HEAVY RAINSTORM. THE RAIN HAS STOPPED, BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION OF A DEMONSTRATION IN THE OFFING. EVEN THE CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IS QUIET.

7. BANGKOK REMAINS CALM, BUT THE POLICE ARE ALERT TO PREVENT VIOLENCE, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ACTIVISTS BELIEVE COULD OCCUR AT FORTHCOMING RALLY. BURKE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO27090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760368-0777
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976099/aaaaahkn.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 26822
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE PHIKKU THANON AFFAIR
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH, (PHIKKU THANOM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006